

GOTEP044

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

U.S. Application No. To be assigned
Application of: Schleimann-Jensen, et al
International Application No. PCT/SE99/02485
International Filing Date: 23 December 1999
Priority Date Claimed: 23 December 1998
For: Gas Discharge Tube
Attorney Docket No. GOTEP044

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Asst. Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Preliminary to calculating the fees for the application filed herewith, please cancel claims 1 - 17 as amended before the IPEA/EP, and add new claims 18 - 37 as follows:

CLAIMS

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a (P²)
18. Gas discharge tube comprising at least two electrodes and at least one hollow insulator fastened to at least one of the electrodes, wherein said at least two electrodes have a chemically inert surface, and wherein the chemically inert surface has been arranged onto the electrodes using a physical vapour deposition or a chemical vapour deposition.
19. Gas discharge tube according to claim 18, wherein the chemically inert surface is selected from the group of carbon, gold, and platinum.